

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

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Department of State

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Representative Kersten, Chairman Select Committee, plans visit Europe for this summer/purpose conducting hearings or interviews with refugees and emigrés from behind iron curtain with view developing information on methods used seizure power in satellites. ^{Interviewees} ~~Interviewees~~ might be from anywhere in Europe. In response informal approach re Kersten's desire hold public hearings in Austria, Dept stressed undesirability such hearings because of likely unfavorable reactions particularly risk putting Austrian Government in vulnerable position vis-a-vis Soviets. In response continued Committee insistence Dept representative agreed consult Austrian Govt re possibility holding closed hearings in ^{QTE} some US consulate ^{UNQTE} Austria.

in your discretion
Request you consult Foreign Office and submit views Austrian Govt as well as your own on Committee's latest proposal. If Foreign Office and you agree would imagine Salzburg best location.

FII Dept at Committee's instance arranged for closed interviews to be held in London and Munich with permission of UK and FED REP GOVTS subject to following conditions:

a. Hearings will be closed, in Munich in US GOVT BLDGS, in London on private premises, with no publicity or publication of substance of interviews while Committee in a particular country.

Drafted by:

EUR:WE:EPAllen:jc
5/21/54

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

John Wesley Jones

Clearances:

H - Mr. Brown

State Dept. review completed

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b. All prospective witnesses will be approached by invitation which clearly ^{any} can be refused, there will be no effort to force/witness' appearance.

c. Scope of interviews will be limited to study of communist tactics and Committee will avoid discussions of delicate and speculative political issues which might embarrass host Govt.

Committee's plans are to be in London and Munich in June and presumably would wish to hold any interviews for which permission might be obtained in Austria at approximately the same time.

DULLES